

CHAPTER NO. 486

HOUSE BILL NO. 1175

By Representatives Buck, Newton, Davidson, Jackson, Pinion, McMillan

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 1502

By Mr. Speaker Wilder

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 16; Title 18; Title 38 and Title 40, relative to reporting requirements for court cases.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 16-3-803, is amended by deleting subsection (h) and by substituting instead the following:

(h) The Administrative Director of the Courts shall establish criteria, develop procedures and implement a Tennessee Court Information System (TnCIS). The system shall provide an integrated case management and accounting software system addressing the statutory responsibilities of the clerks of the General Sessions, Chancery, Circuit, and Juvenile Courts. The system shall also provide state-wide reporting and data transfer capabilities for the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), Department of Human Services, Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, Department of Safety and such other state agencies as may be determined by the AOC or as statutorily mandated.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 16, Chapter 3, Part 8, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

Section 16-3-8__.

(a) There is hereby created a Tennessee Court Information System (TnCIS) Steering Committee. The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), in consultation with the steering committee, shall use recommendations from the Tennessee Judicial Information System Advisory Committee (TJISAC) to manage and control the scope of the TnCIS software project relative to defining system functionality and determining project timelines, deadlines and system implementation priorities. The steering committee shall consist of thirteen (13) members as follows: three (3) court clerk members to be selected by TJISAC; two (2) members appointed by the Comptroller of the Treasury; two (2) members appointed by the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC); and six (6) members of the General Assembly to be appointed by the respective Speakers, as follows: one (1) member of the Senate Finance, Ways and Means Committee; one (1) member of the House Finance, Ways and Means Committee; one (1) member of the Senate Judiciary Committee; one (1) member of the House Judiciary Committee; the Speaker of the Senate, or the Speaker's designee; and the Speaker of the House of Representatives; or the Speaker's designee. The Department of Finance and Administration, office for information resources; contract software vendors and any other group or organization providing support for the TnCIS software project shall serve as advisors to the steering committee.

(b) Members of the steering committee shall serve without additional compensation; however, any member who is not an employee of state or local government shall be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred as a result of his or

her duties with the committee in accordance with the provisions of the comprehensive travel regulations as promulgated by the Department of Finance and Administration and approved by the Attorney General and Reporter.

(c) The members of the steering committee shall serve two (2) year terms and may be reappointed. A member's term shall terminate whenever the steering committee ceases to exist.

(d) For purposes of administration only, the steering committee shall be attached to the AOC.

(e) The TnCIS Steering Committee shall elect a chair to coordinate the work of the committee and to preside over steering committee meetings. The chair shall also periodically update TJISAC; the information systems council; the Judiciary Committee of the Senate, the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives; the Speaker of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives concerning progress of the TnCIS software project.

(f) The AOC, in consultation with the TnCIS Steering Committee, shall also select a project manager to oversee assigned staff and to manage the day-to-day operation of the TnCIS software project. The project manager shall perform duties as determined by the AOC, in consultation with the TnCIS Steering Committee, including but not limited to, oversight of contracts; software development and installation timelines; software modification and support; system implementation and budget. The project manager shall deliver periodic progress reports to the AOC, the steering committee and to TJISAC. The project manager shall be paid out of the Tennessee judicial information system fund, created pursuant to the provisions of § 16-3-807.

(g) The steering committee shall meet as necessary to review the progress of the TnCIS system development in terms of the initial project scope as determined by the steering committee.

(h) The steering committee shall remain in existence for a period not to exceed five (5) years from June 30, 1999 or until such time as the TnCIS system has been implemented based on the initial project scope as determined by the TnCIS Steering Committee.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 18-1-105, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated subsection:

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(1) Install and maintain the Tennessee Court Information System (TnCIS) as provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) or a functionally equivalent computer system. The implementation of TnCIS in the offices of the court clerks shall be determined by the TnCIS Steering Committee and shall be based on the availability of adequate funding. The TnCIS software shall be made available to all offices of court clerks, including those offices previously automated and those offices within Shelby, Davidson, Knox, and Hamilton counties.

(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, any court clerk office having a significant investment in an existing computer system shall not be required to acquire a new computer

system, or to modify or convert an existing system to utilize the TnCIS software. Provided, however, such court clerk offices shall maintain a computer system that will report electronically all data required under Supreme Court Rule 11 § 2, or otherwise statutorily mandated; and the AOC shall provide for the necessary data transfers with other state agencies as defined by the AOC or as statutorily required.

SECTION 4. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to that end the provisions of this act are declared to be severable.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 1999, the public welfare requiring it.

PASSED: May 28, 1999



JIMMY NAIFEH, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



JOHN S. WILDER
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 17th day of June 1999



DON SUNDQUIST, GOVERNOR